

PETRIFIED WOOD

DR. G. DALLAS HANNA, Curator of Paleontology in the California Academy of Sciences, recently returned from a collecting trip to southern California which included stops at Ventura, Los Angeles, San Diego, La Jolla, and Bakersfield. One of the most interesting finds of the trip was the discovery of a new locality for a particularly beautiful petrified wood. Dr. Hanna found the fossil specimens in the Walker-Basin Creek region of Kern County. Some of these will be added to the Pitts' Collection and will soon go on exhibit in North American Hall.



SALAMANDERS

MR. JOSEPH SLEVIN, Curator of the Academy's Department of Herpetology, accompanied by Mr. Wallace Wood who was formerly a member of the Aquarium's staff, spent some time during December collecting salamanders and other herpetological specimens in northern California. Collecting was done as far north as Crescent City and the two chief localities of the trip were Mill Creek Park and Prairie Creek Ranger Station. Many fine specimens were obtained, representing all but one of the salamander species known to inhabit the region. Included was a nice series of *Plethodon elongatus* Van Denburgh which was discovered by Mr. Slevin in 1911 when he covered the territory between Ukiah and Roseburg, Oregon, travelling between collecting stations on the old horse stage. Very few specimens of this species had been taken since the type series was captured.



APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting on December 9, 1946, approved the applications of Mr. Ralph M. Colcord and Mr. B. R. Westcott for MEMBERSHIP, and of Carol Pelmeier and Patsy Regin for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after January 24, they will be considered elected.

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ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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DR. E. S. ROSS HUNTING EMBIOPTERA IN MEXICO

(See page 2)

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January Announcement

THE REGULAR JANUARY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held on Tuesday evening, January 28, 1947, at 8 o'clock, in the Native Sons' Auditorium which is located on the fifth floor of the Native Sons' Building, 430 Mason Street, San Francisco. The lecture of the evening, another in the Academy's series on the Dr. Walter B. Scaife Foundation, will be given by Mr. Howard Cleaves. His subject will be

MIDNIGHT MOVIES IN ANIMAL LAND

Mr. Cleaves is a human chandelier, but the stages which he lights are not enclosed by walls of man's manufacture. Instead, they are the leaf-carpeted aisles of the forest, the water-carved canyons of great rivers, the sandy floors of our great wastelands and the seashore, the rocky precipices and snow peaks of the mountains. Howard Cleaves is an ace motion picture cameraman in the field of wildlife photography and he specializes in night scenes. His nocturnal prowlings have taken him from the swamps of the Florida everglades to the white spires of the Cascades, and from the woodlands of New England to the deserts of the Pacific Southwest. To light his way on these prowls he carries a battery of special lights mounted on his shoulders, and while he remains invisible the strong beam from his chandelier turns night into day for fifty yards around, revealing the mysterious happenings of the wilderness night. Most nocturnal creatures do not run from artificial light and they may even become transfixed under its spell. These are the actors in the motion pictures which Mr. Cleaves will show.

The public is cordially invited. Please note change in place of meeting.



ACADEMY EXPEDITION RETURNS FROM MEXICO

MEXICO, a land of tremendous topographic contrasts, ornamented by strange plants, populated by a vast and little-studied fauna, attracts the naturalist like a magnet. Easily yielding to this attraction, Doctors E. C. VanDyke and E. S. Ross of the Department of Entomology; Frank E. Skinner, graduate student at the University of California; and Mrs. Ross packed their gear into one of the Academy's collecting trucks and spent the month of November hunting insects along the road between Nuevo Laredo and the old galleon port of Acapulco. In addition to the thousands

of specimens secured, data were gathered on road and camping conditions which should prove invaluable on the many future detailed field trips planned for Mexico.

Especially fruitful was Dr. Ross' search for new and interesting species of Embi-optera, a small, peculiar order of rare tropical insects which live in silk tunnels spun under stones and on bark. The silk is spun by means of glands contained in the greatly swollen fore-feet of the insects. Dr. VanDyke's collecting efforts added many species of beetles new to the Academy's collection, Mrs. Ross secured a fine lot of ants, and Mr. Skinner obtained many wasps.



ELECTION OF FELLOWS

AT THE DECEMBER MEETING of the Academy's Council the following members of the Academy were elected Fellows of the California Academy of Sciences, in recognition of their distinction in scientific work: Professors L. H. Brown, G. F. Ferris, J. W. MacBain, and C. B. van Niel of Stanford University; Professors F. A. Jenkins, Harold Kirby, and E. G. Linsley of the University of California, Berkeley; Professor Peter Frandsen of the University of Nevada; Professor H. U. Sverdrup, Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; and Mr. S. B. Show, who recently resigned as Regional Forester of the United States Forest Service to accept an important post with the United Nations' Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.



THE AQUARIUM JOURNAL

BEGINNING WITH the January, 1947, issue, *The Aquarium Journal*, official organ of the San Francisco Aquarium Society and edited by Dr. Wilbert M. Chapman, the Academy's Curator of Fishes, appeared in a new format. Among the more obvious improvements are expansion, both in respect to page size and the number of pages, and also the use of a cover brightened by color. The chief aims of the journal were stated by the editor as follows: "We wish to have a magazine written by professionals for amateurs, with the information given in simple language and covering the whole field of aquatic biology." The present issue contains two articles by members of the Academy's staff, one on Siamese fighting fish by Mr. William B. Richardson, and the other on the auditory structures of fish by Dr. Chapman.



WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHS EXHIBITED

TWENTY-EIGHT extraordinary photographic studies of wildlife subjects by Paul Fair are on exhibit in North American Hall. Perhaps the most outstanding are the cougar pictures, one with the animal in midair after springing from a tree, the other showing the big cat standing with front paws against the tree. Mr. Fair is in charge of the educational exhibits for the regional office of the United States Forest Service. At one time he was a member of the Academy's department of exhibits and it was he who prepared most of the bird groups which are displayed in North American Hall.